

29 April 1966

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
(AZI) WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: CA/PROP

ATTENTION : ☐ ☐
Room 2 L 14

SUBJECT : Project AERODYNAMIC Literature

1. Bereh Chekan' (Shore of Expectations) was published in December 1965. It contains a collection of poetry and a short diary of Vasyl' Symonenko, a young Soviet Ukrainian poet, who died of cancer in December 1963 at the age of 28. This collection of poems, which was smuggled out to the West by a Project AERODYNAMIC contact, failed to pass Soviet censors for publication in the Soviet Union.

2. Symonenko's poetry was concerned with social problems, with problems related to the general drive for freedom among the young generation, and it revealed the patriotic motives of a national Ukrainian movement directed against Moscow. When this collection of Symonenko's poetry and his diary first appeared in the January 1965 issue of Suchasnist (Present Time, an AERODYNAMIC publication), there were favorable comments in the Italian, Swiss, German and English-language press. On 15 April 1965, Radyanska Ukraina carried an article over the signature of Symonenko's mother accusing two Soviet writers of giving the literature to enemies of her people. One of the writers, Ivan Svitlychny, was secretly tried and sentenced to a labor camp. Another article in Radyanska Ukraina accused malicious enemies of fabricating lies and using Symonenko's legacy to their own advantage. The 27 April 1965 Literaturna Ukraina expressed indignation over the publication of the Symonenko material and warned Soviet citizens against working with the enemies.

3. Symonenko's name had been submitted for a posthumous award of the Shevchenko literary prize in Kiev in early 1965, but it was later withdrawn without any explanation.

4. An original of the soft cover edition of Bereh Chekan' is attached, and for your convenience, an English translation of the introduction to the book. Your comments are invited.



It is requested that both the book and the translated introduction be returned after they have served your purpose. A copy of the book will be furnished you, if you so desire, upon request.

5. We apologize for the pencilled corrections and insertions. However, because of the work load of our typists, it is felt that a complete reediting and retyping is not justified at this time.

□ DC/SR/CA □

2 Attachments